INTERVIEW POLICIES
2018-19
DIVISION I MEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Press conferences will be conducted on the day before each game and immediately after each game. The host media coordinator will have the authority to request any student-athlete to attend any press conference, but should work with the participating institution’s head coach and SID, as well as a designated pool reporter representing the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) to select postgame press conference participants. Each participating institution shall make student-athletes available at all scheduled press conferences and/or open locker room periods. All interviews at the facility shall occur in the media interview room or the locker room area.

Cameras, Recorders. All electronic media desiring to record the proceedings in the interview room will be required to use the connecting devices supplied by the NCAA. No individual filming of the interviews will be permitted, unless authorization is granted by the NCAA (i.e. team videographers, Turner/CBS All-Access crew).

Telephone Interviews. Neither coaches nor student-athletes may conduct interviews via telephone until 15 minutes after the locker room opens.

Uplink. The NCAA/Hammond Communications will uplink all formal press conferences.

Locker Rooms.

Game Days. The locker rooms will be open to the media for a minimum of 30 minutes after the cooling off period ends, provided media representatives are present the entire time. Student-athletes who do not play in the game and student-athletes selected for drug testing may depart earlier if they are not requested for interviews and are not participants in the postgame press conference.

At the institution’s discretion, the locker room can remain open for individual interviews with players who were held in the holding area prior to going on the dais and thus were unavailable while other players were interviewed in the locker room.

The head coach has the option to allow representatives of Turner/CBS television into the locker room before the game and during the cooling off period after the game. These representatives must leave the locker room after the cooling off period if the NCAA sports sciences staff must notify student-athletes that they will be drug tested.

Open Practice Days. On open practice days, all student-athletes who are not in the media interview room shall be available to the media in the locker room area during the time the coach and selected student-athletes are participating in the press conference. A representative of each institution’s sports information staff shall be in the area and will coordinate these interview requests.

Press Conferences Day Prior To Games.

Day Before First Four, First Round, Second Round and Regional Semifinal Games. Each coach and a minimum of two student-athletes will participate in each press conference.

Day Before Regional Finals. The head coach and each of the five starters representing the teams advancing to the regional championship games will participate in the scheduled press
conferences. The first 20 minutes will be devoted to a group interview of the coach and student-athletes; after which the coach will remain on the dais for 20 additional minutes while the student-athletes go to individual breakout rooms for 15 minutes.

**Thursday Before National Semifinals.** The head coach and selected student-athletes shall grant interviews to Turner/CBS, Westwood One, NCAA Productions and Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment (VWSE). The head coach shall participate in a press conference with credentialed members of the media. There will also be a 25-minute window where student-athletes shall be made available to the media in the team locker room.

**Day Before National Semifinals.** Student-athletes will be required to participate in a scheduled press conference (minimum of two, jointly with the head coaches) and breakout sessions (five in separate locations). The head coach shall participate in a press conference as well. The team locker room shall be open during this time. The head coach shall conduct a brief interview with CNN following the conclusion of their team’s open practice.

**Day Before National Championship Game.** The head coach shall conduct interviews with Turner/CBS, Westwood One, NCAA Productions and ESPN, and have a joint press conference with a minimum of two players. Five student-athletes will also be required to participate in breakout sessions, and selected players shall participate in interviews with Turner/CBS and Westwood One, during which other student-athletes shall be made available in the team’s locker room.

**Postgame Press Conferences.**

**Cooling Off Period.** The cooling-off period for all rounds of the championships is five minutes for the winning team and 15 minutes for the losing team. At his discretion, a coach may shorten the cooling-off period, but may not extend it. The cooling-off period begins when the head coach enters the locker room after the game.

**First Four, First Round, Second Round, Regional Semifinals, National Semifinals.** The winning team will appear in the news conference first, after a five-minute cooling-off period. After the cooling-off period expires, the head coach and a minimum of two student-athletes shall be escorted to the interview room for a postgame press conference not to exceed 12 minutes. The rest of the players shall be available to the media in the locker room for 30 minutes after the cooling-off period ends. The losing team will have a 15-minute cooling-off period before its locker room opens to the media for 30 minutes. If requested, the losing team’s coach shall grant an interview with Turner/CBS as soon as the cooling-off period expires. At his discretion, the coach may conduct the Turner/CBS interview during the cooling-off period. However, no other interviews may take place during this time. Ten minutes after the winning team’s press conference begins, the head coach and a minimum of two student-athletes shall be escorted to the holding area adjacent to the interview room. After the winning team’s coach and players have left the interview room area, the losing team’s coach and players shall go on the dais for a postgame press conference not to exceed 10 minutes.
Regional and National Championship Games. The losing team will appear in the news conference first, after a 15-minute cooling-off period. After the cooling-off period expires, the head coach and a minimum of two student-athletes shall be escorted to the interview room for a postgame press conference not to exceed 12 minutes. The rest of the student-athletes shall be available to the media in the locker room for 30 minutes after the cooling-off period ends. If requested, the losing team’s coach shall grant an interview with Turner/CBS as soon as the cooling-off period expires. At his discretion, the coach may conduct the Turner/CBS interview during the cooling-off period. However, no other interviews may take place during this time. The winning team shall have a five-minute cooling-off period that begins when its coach enters the locker room after on-court media obligations and the regional/national championship trophy presentation. Upon conclusion of the cooling-off period, the head coach and a minimum of two student-athletes shall be escorted to the interview room for a press conference not to exceed 15 minutes. The rest of the student-athletes shall be available to the media in the locker room for 30 minutes after the cooling-off period ends.

“Selected Media” Policy. Except for Turner/CBS as noted in the “Locker Rooms” section above, no interviews may take place during the cooling off period, nor may representatives of the institution shoot video or conduct radio interviews on behalf of a media agency. Should a coach permit one media representative, other than Turner/CBS, the team photographer, team photographer or originating radio station personnel, to enter the locker room before the cooling off period has ended, the locker room will be open to all other media representatives desiring access.

Press Conference Format. The following schedule should be used as a guideline for press conferences. The coach shall make an opening statement that should last for a maximum of two minutes. Once completed, the moderator shall open the press conference for questions to all individuals seated on the dais. The moderator should advise media members that student-athletes will be dismissed from the dais if all the questions are directed towards the coach.

Obligation of Coach. Regardless of any personal regular-season radio or television contracts, the coach is first obligated to the entire media staffing the tournament and must report to the interview room immediately after the cooling off period ends. After fulfilling this commitment to the media staffing the tournament, the coach and players may participate in other interviews.

Participating Student-Athletes. The sports information director, working with the head coach and a designated pool reporter representing the USBWA, shall designate a minimum of two student-athletes to participate in the postgame press conference. Primary consideration will be given to student-athletes who had the biggest impact on the game.

Turner/CBS Television and Radio Rightsholders, Postgame. If requested, the winning coach, losing coach and winning student-athletes shall grant postgame interviews, not to exceed four minutes, to Turner/CBS television and/or Westwood One provided the networks
are still providing live coverage from the facility. The media coordinator will be responsible for terminating the four-minute interview period. The winning coach and players shall conduct these interviews immediately following the conclusion of each game. These will take place on the court but must not interfere with teams warming up for the next game.

Coaches and student-athletes who are not being interviewed by Turner/CBS television or Westwood One may conduct interviews with the institution’s radio network during the four-minute period.

Turner/CBS television will have the first choice of individuals to interview, then Westwood One, then the institution’s network.

Additionally, the head coach has the option of conducting an interview with the institution’s radio network (at the network’s courtside seating location) during a two-minute period after the conclusion of the initial four-minute period.

The losing coach’s interview will take place in a designated area inside or near the team locker room and shall take place after the cooling off period and prior to the coach being escorted to the postgame press conference.

The networks cannot inordinately delay the coaches’ and players’ return to the locker room. If the networks are not prepared to conduct live interviews immediately, it will be necessary for the interviews to be recorded.